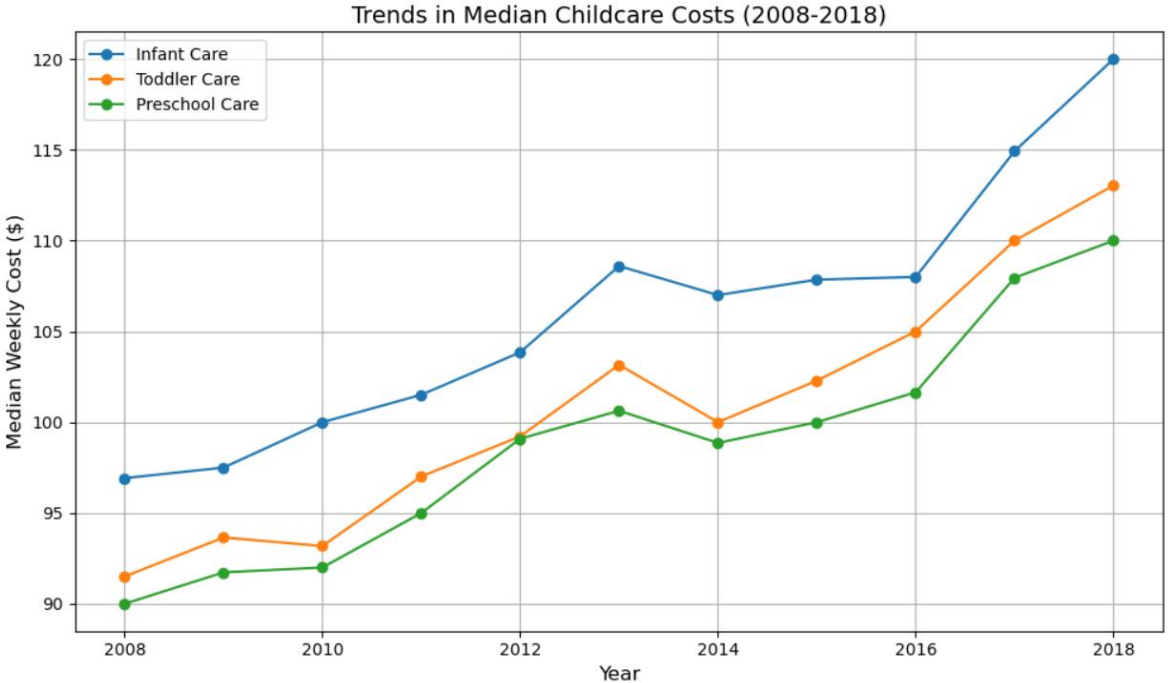
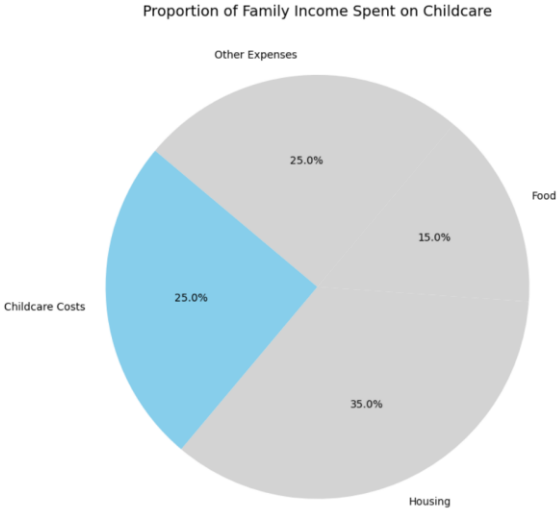


# Childcare Costs

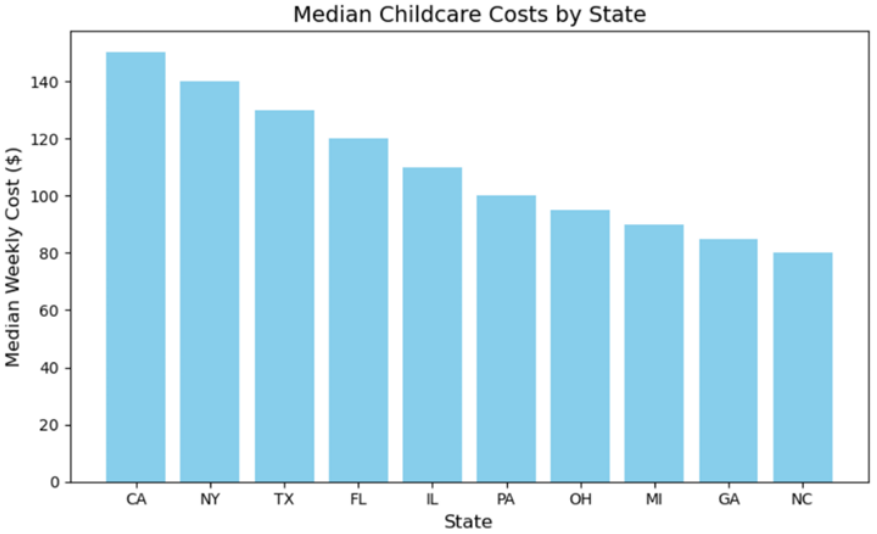
With over a **20%** increase in childcare over the decade; Policymakers need to increase funding of Bill 32 for childcare expenses in high-cost regions, allowing parents to re-enter the workforce.



**¼** of the total family income is required for childcare expenses



6 of the shown states cost over **\$100 a week** for each child, with the others not far behind



# Aharon Rabson

## The Rising Cost of Childcare

*Investing in Childcare: Strengthening Families, Boosting the Workforce*



### Introduction

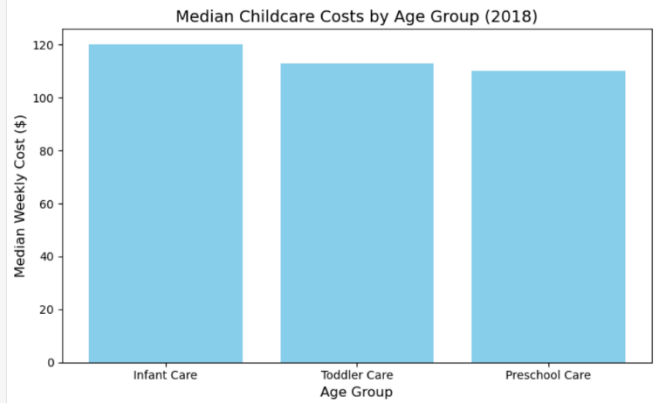
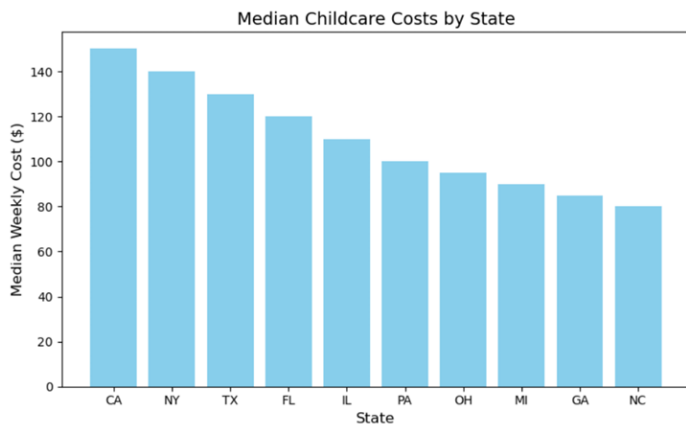
Childcare in the United States has become an unsustainable financial burden for millions of families. Over the past decade, median childcare costs have risen by 25%, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income households. For working families, high childcare costs directly impact workforce participation, creating a barrier to economic stability.

This post explores the critical challenges in childcare affordability, highlights the regional disparities, and provides actionable steps policymakers can take to address these pressing issues.

### **Key Trends and Challenges**

#### **1. Rising Costs**

- The average weekly cost of childcare for infants has reached \$113, while families in high-cost regions pay over \$150 weekly.

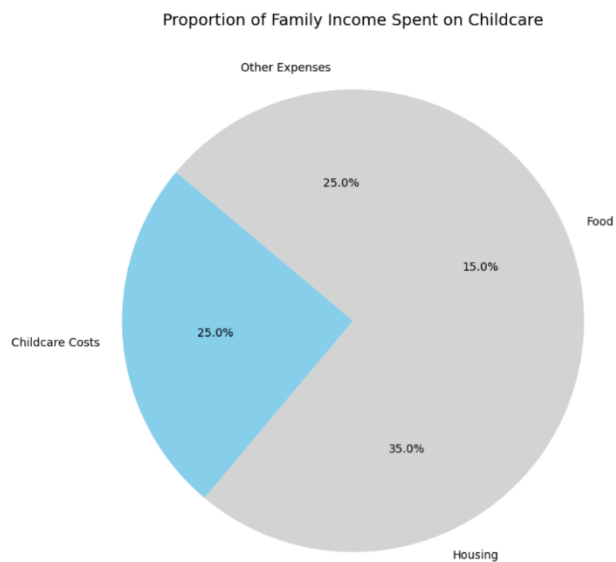


## 2. Regional Disparities

- Urban families face the highest expenses, with California and New York leading in childcare costs.
- Meanwhile, rural areas report costs as low as \$40 weekly, but access to quality care remains limited.

## 3. Economic Impacts

- Families spend up to 25% of their income on childcare, leaving less for essentials like housing, food, and savings.



- This financial pressure forces many parents—primarily women—out of the workforce, further reducing household income and contributing to economic stagnation.

## Solutions that Work

Research shows that subsidized childcare policies can significantly increase workforce participation while reducing financial strain on families. For example:

- **Childcare Subsidies:** Increase government funding for childcare subsidies to make care accessible for low- and middle-income families.
- **Tax Incentives:** Expand childcare tax credits to support working parents and incentivize employers to provide childcare benefits.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage collaboration between businesses and government to create affordable, high-quality childcare programs.

### **Support Affordable Childcare Legislation**

Policymakers must prioritize affordable childcare solutions. Vote YES on proposed initiatives like *Bill 32: The Childcare Affordability Act*, which allocates funding to subsidize childcare costs for families earning below 200% of the federal poverty level.

By investing in childcare, we can empower families, improve workforce participation, and strengthen the U.S. economy. Join the movement for affordable childcare today—because no family should have to choose between work and their child's future.

*"Affordable childcare is not just a family issue; it's a national economic imperative."*

Stay informed. Stay engaged. Together, we can make a difference.



Aharon has been writing about policies and governmental structures for the last 5 years. He also spearheads an independent think tank that tries to come up with new ways of supporting the middle to lower-class working population in improving their work environments.

For support and further information contact him at [arabson@thinkbigthinktank.gov](mailto:arabson@thinkbigthinktank.gov)

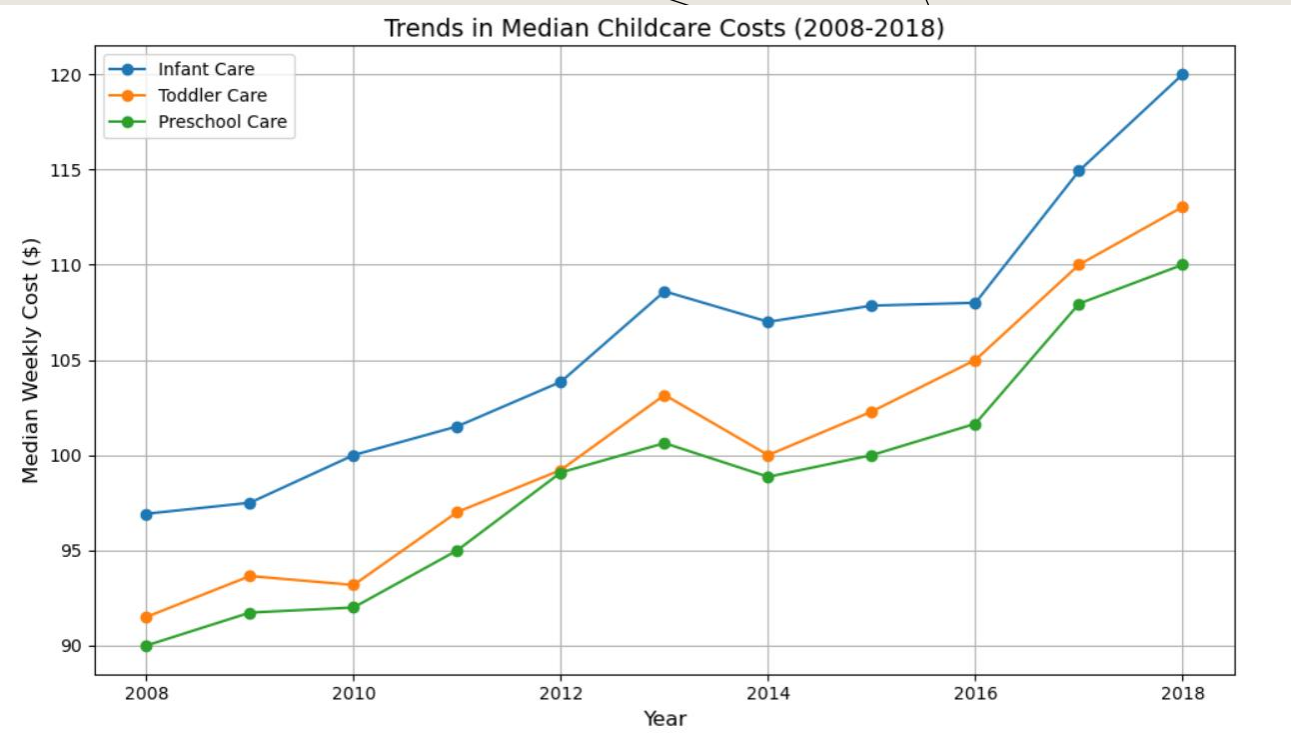
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# Childcare Costs in America: A Call to Action for Workforce Growth

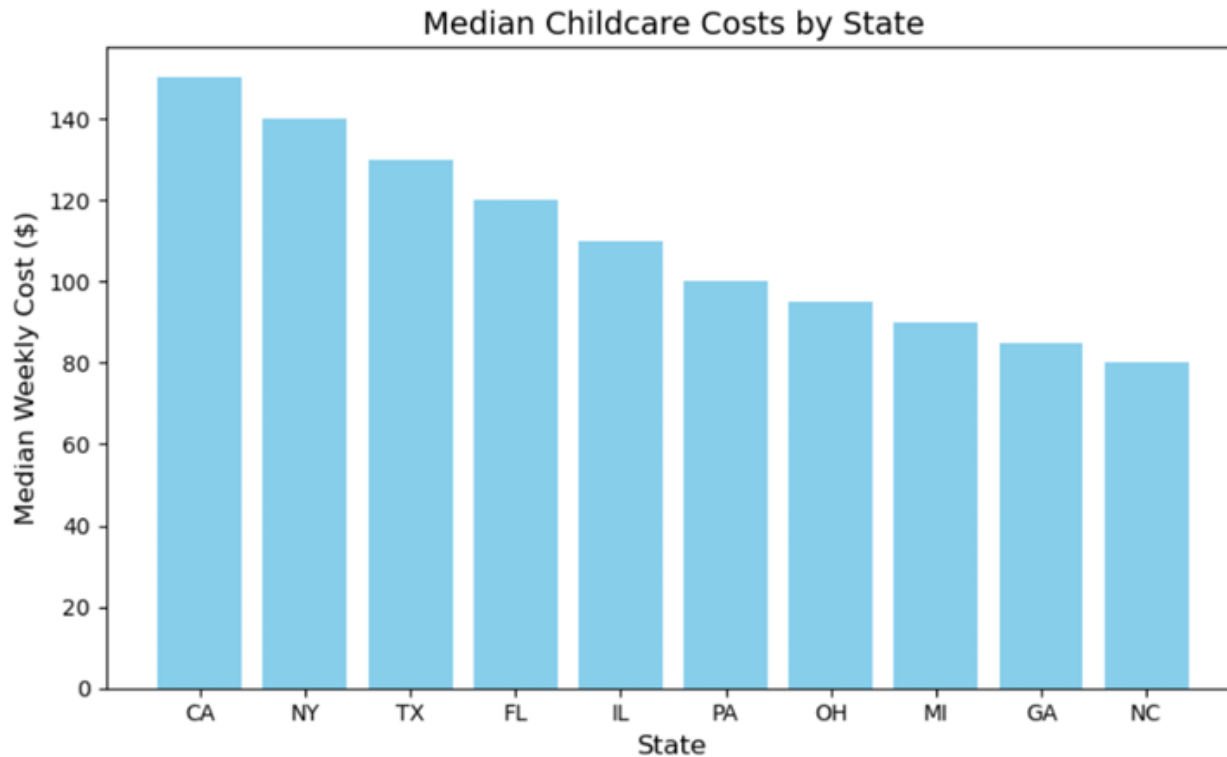
*The Rising Cost of Childcare and Its  
Economic Impact*

# Trends in Childcare Costs (Problem Overview)



- **Key Statistic:** *Median childcare costs have increased by 25% since 2008.*
- *"Families now spend an average of \$113 per week on childcare, with some regions exceeding \$150 per week."*
- **Why it matters:** Higher costs reduce economic mobility for working families.

# REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN CHILDCARE COSTS



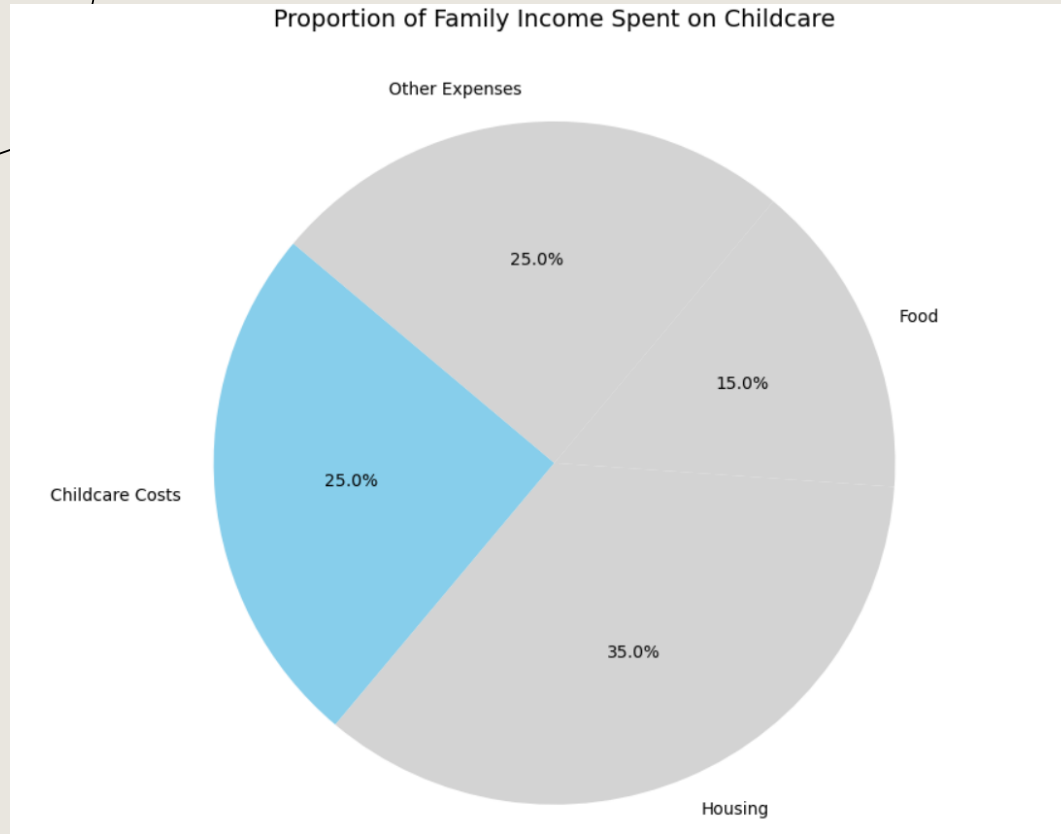
## Urban vs Rural:

- Families in high-cost states (California, New York) pay **2-3 times more** than rural areas.
- Rural families have lower costs (~\$40 per week), but limited access to quality childcare services.

## Inequality & Policy Gaps:

- States with higher childcare subsidies see reduced cost burdens.

# Economic Impact on Families



## Effect of Childcare Inflation

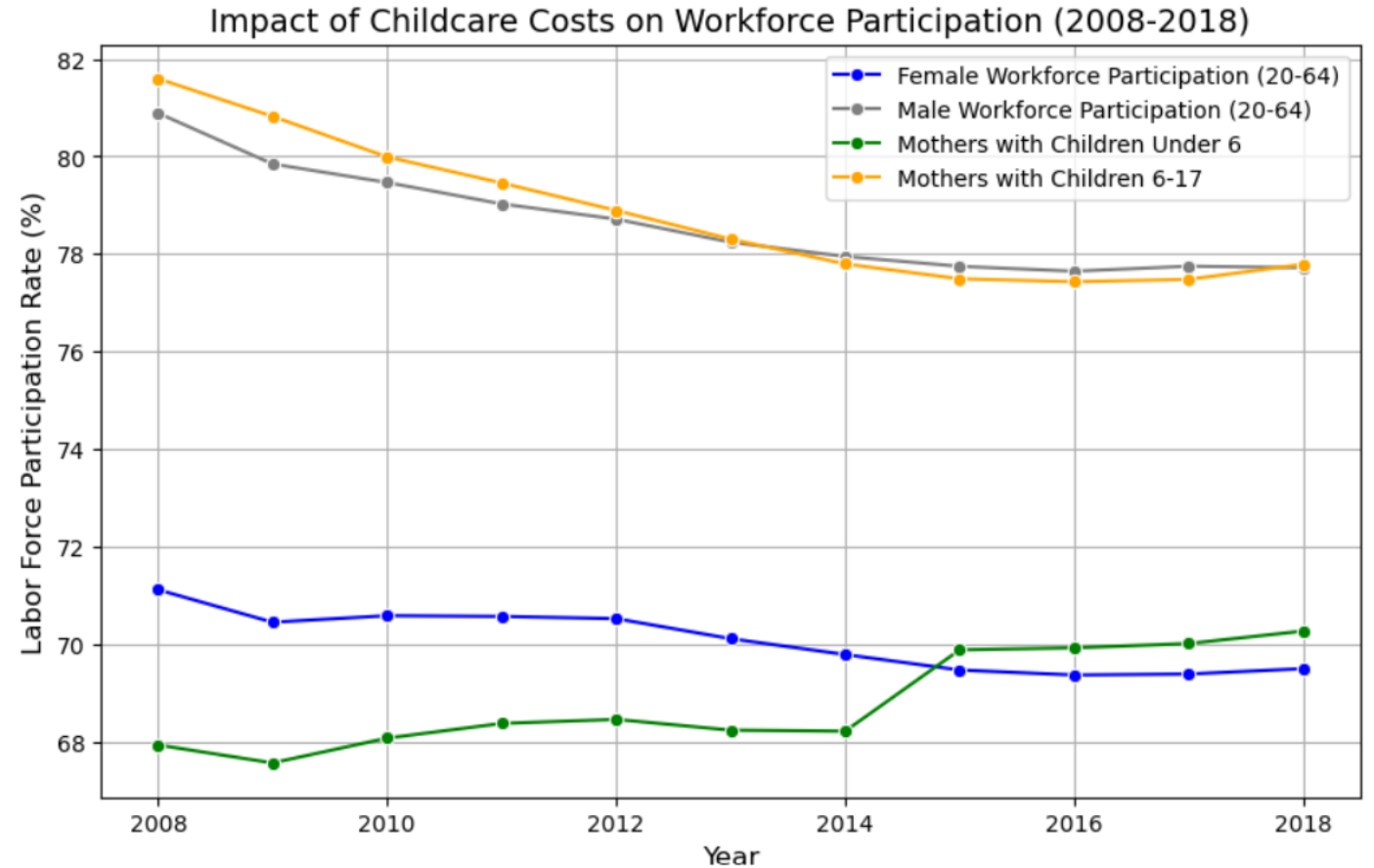
- 25% of family income goes toward childcare—limiting savings, housing, and food security.
- High childcare costs disproportionately affect mothers, forcing many out of the workforce.



# Workforce Participation Impact

- Affordable childcare leads to higher workforce participation, especially for women.
- Overall, the increased cost of childcare has an inverse effect on workforce participation.

(Countries with stronger childcare policies see higher economic growth and gender equity in the workforce )



# POLICY SOLUTIONS & PROPOSED FIXES

- 1: **Expand Childcare Subsidies**

→  
*Reduce cost burdens on working families.*

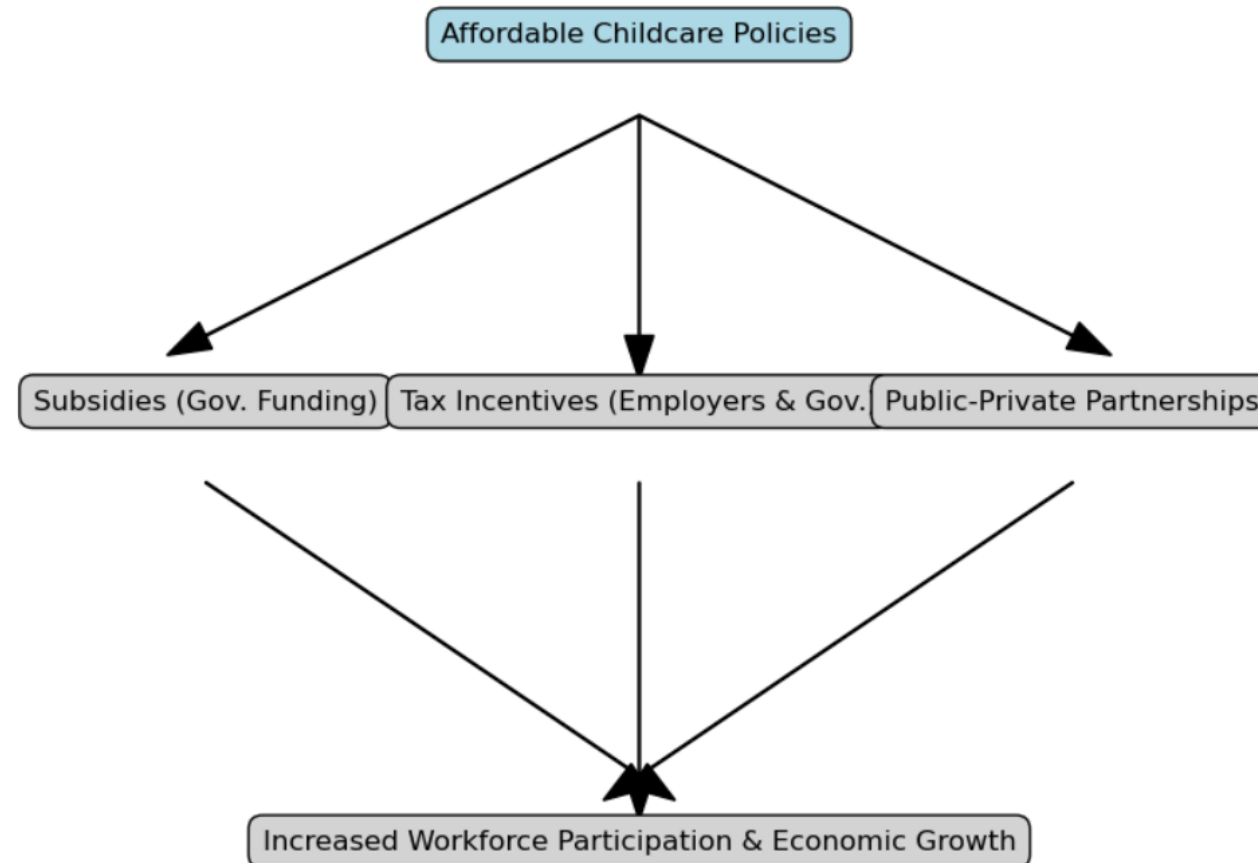
- 2: **Increase Employer Tax Credits**

→  
*Encourage businesses to provide childcare benefits.*

- 3: **Public-Private Partnerships**

→  
*Develop affordable childcare centers in underserved areas.*

*All these are possible additions to Bill 32*



*Our call to those seated here  
today*

## *Vote YES on Bill 32: The Childcare Affordability Act!*

### **The vote would allow:**

- *Support of families earning below 200% of the federal poverty level.*
- *Expanding the funding for childcare subsidies & employer tax incentives.*
- *Strengthening workforce participation and economic growth.*

**A product of the Workforce  
Thinktank**

*For more information and volunteer work:*

Phone: 979 048 7667

Email: [voteyes@childcareact.org](mailto:voteyes@childcareact.org) <sup>7</sup>

## Summary Narrative for the Draft Mediums Submission

This submission consists of three mediums tailored to effectively communicate the financial burden of childcare costs in the United States and advocate for legislative support of Bill 32: The Childcare Affordability Act. Each medium is designed to address policymakers as the primary audience, presenting data and arguments in a structured, visually compelling manner.

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### 1. Dashboard (PowerPoint) - Data-Driven Insights for Policymakers

The dashboard presents key childcare cost data in an accessible and visually engaging format.

- **Visuals:**
  - Cost Breakdown Chart: Highlights that childcare accounts for 25% of family income, emphasizing the financial strain on working families.
  - State Comparison Bar Chart: Demonstrates the disparities between high- and low-cost states, making the case for targeted interventions.
  - Childcare Cost Trends Line Graph: Illustrates the consistent rise in childcare costs over the last decade.
- **Design Choices:**
  - Color Palette: The use of blue and green tones provides a professional, calming effect while maintaining focus on key areas.
  - Gestalt Principles: Charts are designed with proximity and alignment to group related data visually, aiding comprehension.
  - Data Labels: Clear labeling ensures that policymakers can quickly grasp the significance of the statistics.

The dashboard effectively combines factual precision with simplicity, ensuring that policymakers can make informed decisions based on the data.

### 2. Blog Post (Word Document) - Persuasive Narrative

The blog is crafted as a storytelling piece, engaging readers with real-world implications of childcare costs and actionable policy solutions.

- **Content Highlights:**
  - Discusses the 25% rise in childcare costs and how urban families face significantly higher expenses compared to rural areas.
  - Explores the economic burden on families, especially on mothers, who are often forced to leave the workforce.
  - Proposes solutions including childcare subsidies, tax incentives, and public-private partnerships.
- **Design Choices:**
  - Structure: The blog uses short, scannable paragraphs to maintain reader attention.

- Tone: Persuasive yet professional, appropriate for an audience of policymakers and advocacy groups.
- Call to Action: The conclusion urges readers to support Bill 32, tying data and solutions to a specific legislative proposal.

By combining statistical insights with an emotional appeal, the blog serves as a compelling advocacy tool.

### **3. PowerPoint Presentation - Structured Policy Pitch**

The PowerPoint deck provides a comprehensive, step-by-step argument for supporting affordable childcare policies, combining data-driven visuals with clear recommendations.

- **Slide Breakdown:**
  - Introduction Slide: Features a bold image of a working parent with children, setting the tone for the presentation.
  - Trends Slide: Uses a line graph to show the steady increase in childcare costs over time.
  - Regional Disparities Slide: A bar chart emphasizes affordability gaps across states.
  - Economic Burden Slide: A pie chart illustrates the disproportionate share of income spent on childcare.
  - Workforce Impact Slide: Demonstrates, via a line graph, the relationship between childcare costs and workforce participation rates, especially for mothers.
  - Policy Solutions Slide: A flowchart highlights actionable solutions like subsidies and tax incentives.
  - Call to Action Slide: Concludes with a bold, full-screen message urging policymakers to vote YES on Bill 32.
- **Design Choices:**
  - Color Palette: Consistent with the dashboard, using blue for visuals and white and beige as the primary colors for professionalism and trust.
  - Gestalt Principles: Charts and text are aligned and grouped logically, following the principle of proximity to enhance readability.
  - Minimal Text: Focuses on key points, ensuring the audience isn't overwhelmed with information.

The presentation combines logic and emotional appeal, making a persuasive case for legislative action.

### **Overall Design Principles and Rationale**

Across all three mediums, design choices were guided by clarity, accessibility, and audience engagement:

- Color Choices: Blue and white dominate to convey trust, calmness, and reliability—important for persuading policymakers.
- Visual Hierarchy: Key statistics are highlighted through size, color, and placement, ensuring that the most important points stand out.
- Gestalt Principles: Proximity, alignment, and continuity are consistently applied to group related information and enhance flow.
- Data-Driven Visuals: All visuals are based on real data, providing credibility and supporting the argument with evidence.

This structured, multi-medium approach ensures that the message resonates with policymakers, offering clear data insights, actionable recommendations, and a compelling call to action. The submission aims to maximize impact and drive meaningful legislative support for affordable childcare solutions by combining narrative with visuals.